

# C1: Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit\*

Select a Dam & Reservoir Project

## About This Project

**FEB. 25, 2020:** [Fixing Anderson Dam is a priority for Valley Water](#)

**FEB. 24, 2020:** [Valley Water CEO Norma Camacho statement on Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project](#)

- At Valley Water, we are working to protect our community's drinking water, keep residents and businesses safe from flooding and natural disasters, repair and replace aging dams, reservoirs and pipelines, while reducing toxins, hazards and contaminants in our waterways.

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Anderson Reservoir is currently limited to about 58% of its capacity due to seismic concerns (see **News and Updates** tab below for current *operating capacity*), costing Santa Clara County valuable drinking water resources. This project covers earthquake retrofitting of Anderson Dam to improve reliability and safety, and returns the reservoir to its original storage capacity.

Anderson Dam creates the county's largest surface water reservoir—Anderson Reservoir— which stores local rainfall runoff and imported water from the Central Valley Project. The reservoir is an important water source for treatment plants and the recharge of the groundwater basin. Besides restoring drinking water supplies, the upgrade also supports compliance with environmental regulations. Valley Water's regular reservoir releases ensure that downstream habitat has healthy flows and temperatures to sustain wildlife.

A breach of Anderson Dam at full capacity could have catastrophic consequences, including inundation of surrounding land more than 30 miles northwest to San Francisco Bay, and more than 40 miles southeast to Monterey Bay.

In December 2016, the Board was informed by Valley Water staff that findings from the geotechnical and geologic investigations performed during the project's design phase led to the conclusion that a more extensive dam retrofit than had originally been envisioned would have to be performed. Further, the Board was informed that the more extensive retrofit work would double the previous project's estimated cost. Valley Water staff presented the Board with a water supply cost-benefit analysis that showed the benefits of the more extensive retrofit project significantly outweighed the cost of not proceeding with the retrofit, which would require Valley Water to purchase additional imported water every year to make up for the loss of long-term storage at Anderson Reservoir. Based upon this information and analysis, the Board directed Valley Water to continue work on this critical infrastructure project.

\*This project was voter approved as part of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program.

